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## AFRL engineers receive honors at conference

*by Pete Meltzer Jr., AFRL Materials and Manufacturing Directorate,  
with additional input from AFRL Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Three Air Force Research Laboratory engineers have been selected to receive honors during the Black Engineer of the Year Conference, in Baltimore, Md., Feb. 21.

Dr. Darnell E. Diggs, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate, has been selected “black engineer of the year” in the “most promising scientist in government” category. Dr. Diggs is a physicist in the survivability and sensor materials division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Dr. Diggs conducts research in the survivability and sensor materials division’s optical materials research group, where his efforts have been focused primarily on materials for high-performance optoelectronic devices.

One of Dr. Diggs’ projects is improving polymer-based electro-optic modulators that provide critical advantages over devices made from other materials. This includes overcoming one of the primary limitations to these devices, an optimum cladding layer.

Dr. Diggs has demonstrated his expertise with various optical characterization methods for measuring refractive index, propagation loss, electrical conductivity, optical nonlinearity and low and high frequency dielectric constants, and in determining materials compatibility for state-of-the-art core and cladding materials.

Ms. Ellen Montgomery, Science and Technology Strategic Planner in the Plans and Programs Directorate, will receive a Modern Day Technology certificate. Ms. Montgomery is responsible for the development and publication of the Air Force Science and Technology Plan.

Also receiving the Modern Day Technology certificate is 1st Lt. Kathryn Parker, Space Vehicles Directorate, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. Lieutenant Parker specializes in spacecraft power and altitude control systems. @



***Dr. Darnell E. Diggs***